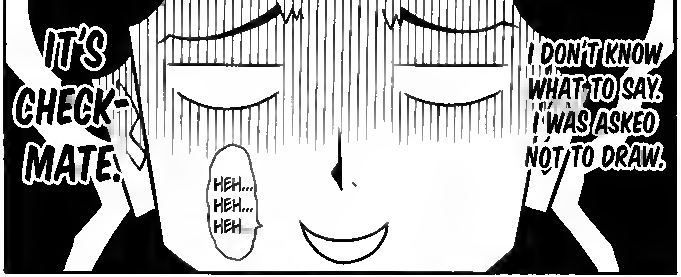

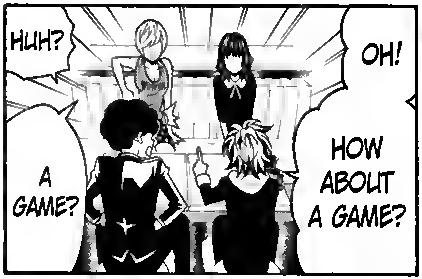

29TH NIGHT: THE FEARSOME HOST

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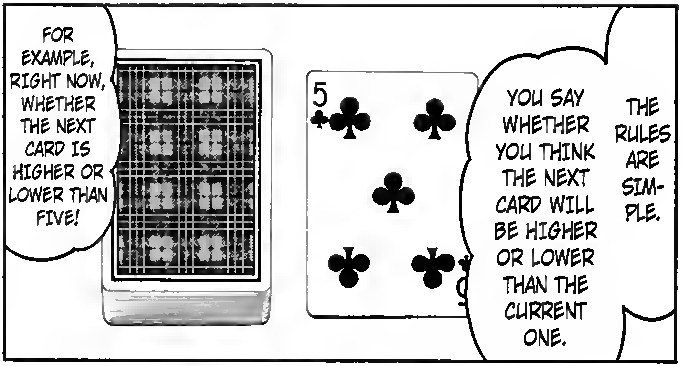
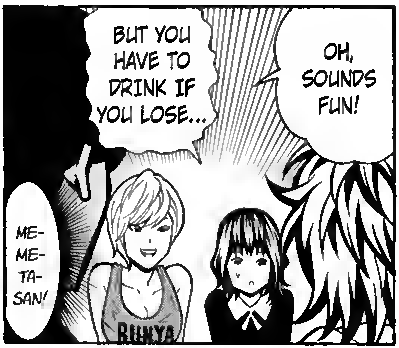
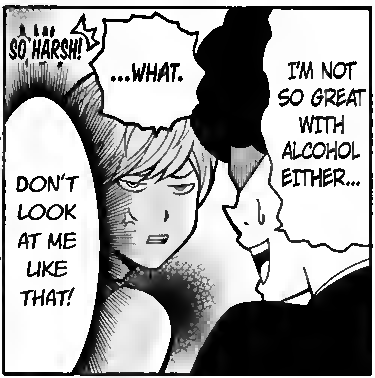
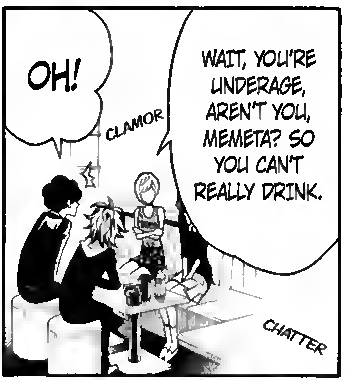

FOR EXAMPLE, RIGHT NOW, WHETHER THE NEXT CARD IS HIGHER OR LOWER THAN FIVE!
5
YOU SAY WHETHER YOU THINK THE NEXT CARD WILL BE HIGHER OR LOWER THAN THE CURRENT ONE.
THE RULES ARE SIMPLE.

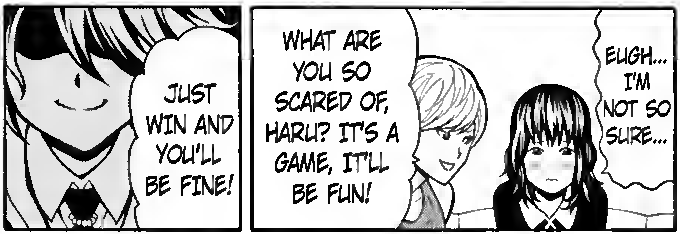


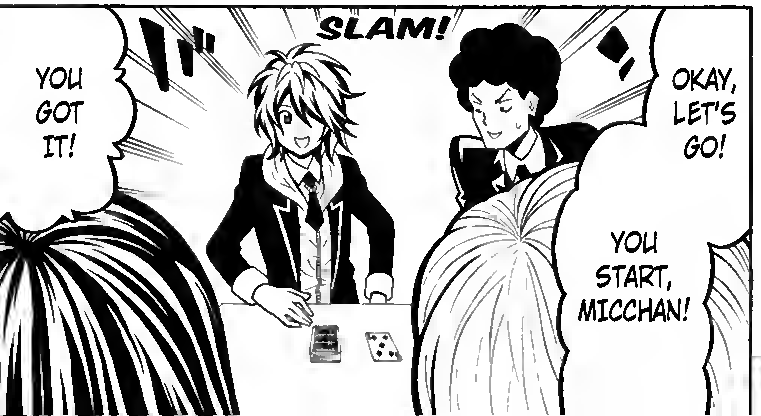


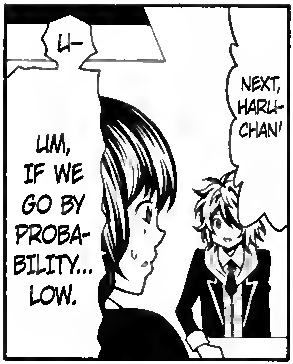


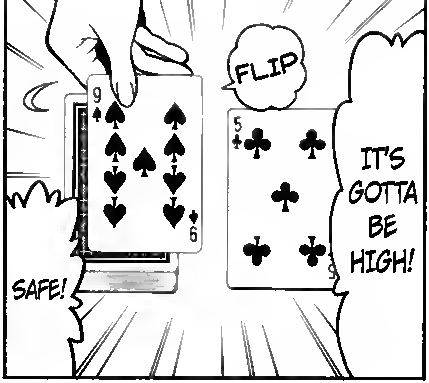
This story is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, places, or events is purely coincidental.

YES.
BAM!
SO IN OUR CASE,
WE'LL CHUG A WHOLE 2L OF SODA! SOUND GOOD?
WHOA! SOUNDS ROUGH!
ALSO, IF YOU REFUSE TO DRINK,
I HAVE A FUN PUNISH-MENT IN MIND, TOO! ♪
THAT'S SCARY!

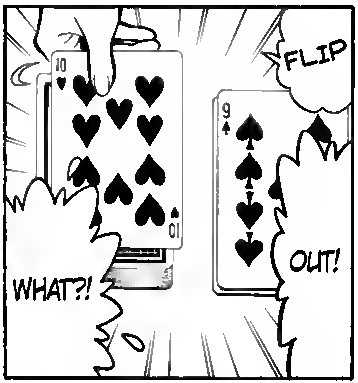

EUGH... I'M NOT SO SURE...
WHAT ARE YOU SO SCARED OF, HARU? IT'S A GAME, IT'LL BE FUN!
JUST WIN AND YOU'LL BE FINE!


SLAM!
OKAY, LET'S GO!
YOU START, MICCHAN!
YOU GOT IT!


U-
NEXT, HARU-CHAN!
UM, IF WE GO BY PROBA-BILITY... LOW.

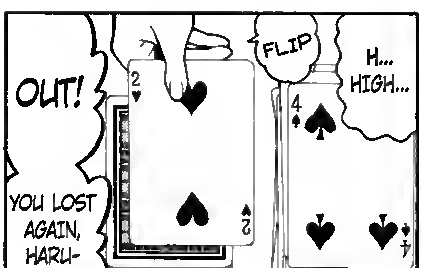

FLIP
IT'S GOTTA BE HIGH!
SAFE!

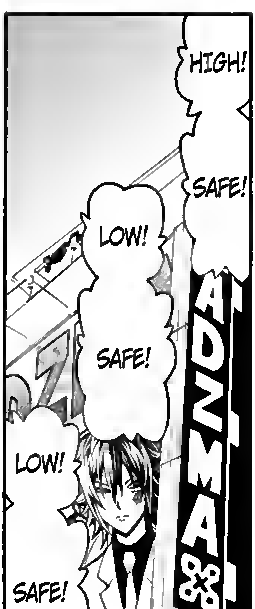
Urgh
HERE WE GO!
DRINK! DRINK! DRINK!
CLAP
CLAP
HUH?


FLIP
WHAT?!
OUT!

GULP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
DRINK, DRINK! DRINK, DRINK! COME ON! ♪
THIS IS ONE OF THOSE DRINKING CHANTS, ISN'T IT?!

I REALLY FEEL LIKE A HOST NOW!
CLAP
CLAP
DRINK, DRINK? DRINK, DRINK?! DRINK, DRINK! COME ON!
OUT!!
HII-III-GH!
OUT!
HIGH!
OUT!
LOW!
DON'T BE LIKE THAT! COME ON, JUST ONE MORE!
LET'S DO IT! RIGHT, MICCHAN?
URK...
I CAN'T DRINK ANY MORE!
YOU CAN DO IT, HARU!
DRINK, DRINK! DRINK, DRINK! DRINK, DRINK!
guzzle
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! SHE'S SO BAD AT THIS!


OUT!
YOU LOST AGAIN, HARU-CHAN!
FLIP
H... HIGH...


HIGH!
SAFE!
LOW!
SAFE!
LOW!
SAFE!
ANIMA

COME ON! IT'S THE RULE!
NO!
I CAN'T!
I REALLY CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE!
THAT'S RIGHT! AND IF YOU WON'T DRINK, THERE'S A SPECIAL PUNISHMENT!
RIGHT MICCHAN?

OH!

...

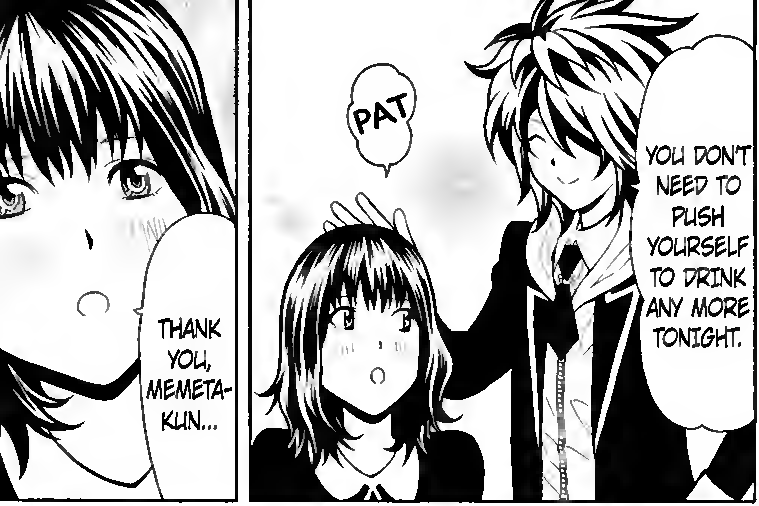
KA-BLAM
LET'S IGNORE THAT.
I ACCI-DENTALLY FLIPPED TWO AT ONCE.
2
7
BZZ BZZZ
UH?
WAIT, MEMETA-SAN?!
THE SEVEN WAS NEXT, SO YOU'RE SAFE.
CHUG
AS A PENALTY FOR THE MISPLAY, I'LL DRINK!
OH HO!
CHUG
DRINK, DRINK! DRINK, DRINK!
CHUG
DRINK, DRINK! DRINK, DRINK!

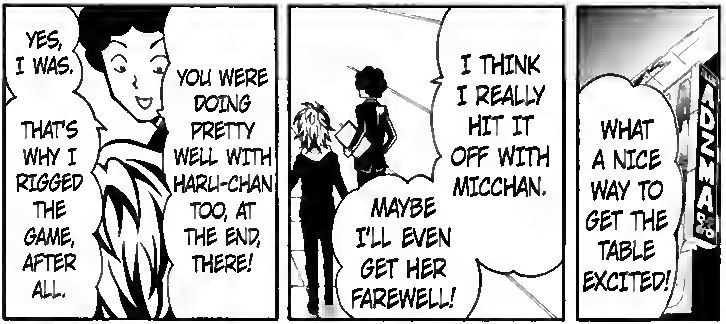
CHUGGING CARBONATED BEVERAGES IS HARD...
BURP
YEAAAAAAA
YOU DID IT!
NICE, MEMETA-SAN!

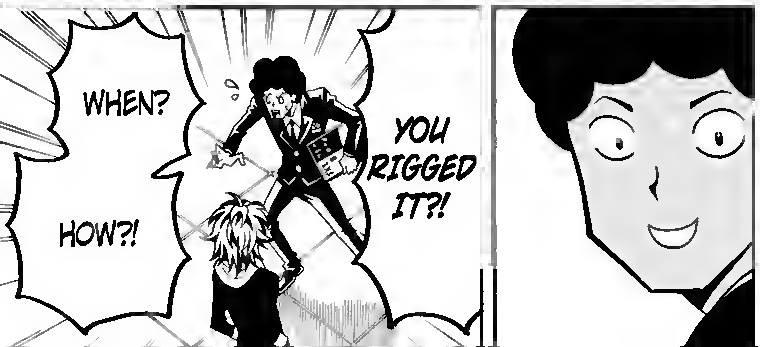
THANKS! IT WAS A LOT OF FUN!
AH! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
OKAY, WE'LL BE MOVING TO ANOTHER TABLE, THEN.
THANK YOU!

AH!
STEP
STEP
EXCUSE US! MIND IF WE JOIN YOU?

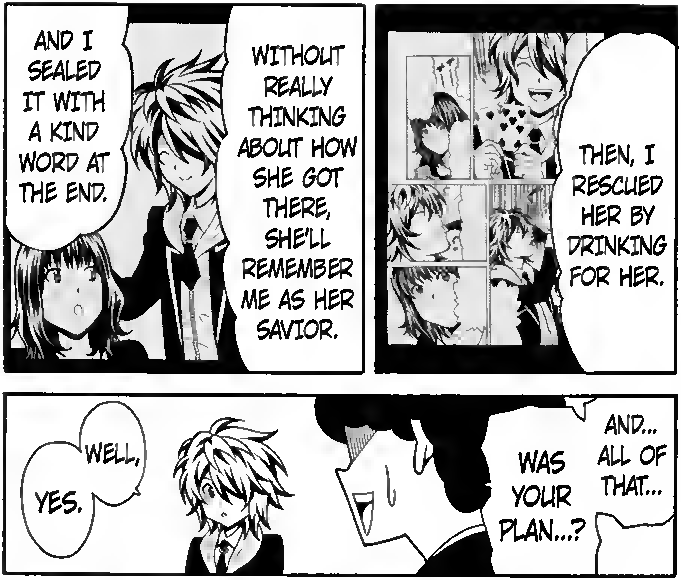
HUH?
SMOOTHLY
HARU-CHAN, HERE'S A PLAIN OOLONG TEA.


PAT
YOU DON'T NEED TO PUSH YOURSELF TO DRINK ANY MORE TONIGHT.
THANK YOU, MEMETA-KUN...


WHAT A NICE WAY TO GET THE TABLE EXCITED!
I THINK I REALLY HIT IT OFF WITH MICCHAN.
MAYBE I'LL EVEN GET HER FAREWELL!
YOU WERE DOING PRETTY WELL WITH HARU-CHAN TOO, AT THE END, THERE!
YES, I WAS.
THAT'S WHY I RIGGED THE GAME, AFTER ALL.

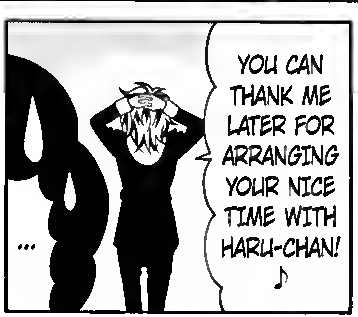

YOU RIGGED IT?!
WHEN?
HOW?!

AND I WAS ALWAYS THE ONE DEALING, TOO?
I COULD'VE KEPT GOING AS LONG AS I NEEDED.
IT'S A TRADE SECRET.
NOTICE HOW I DIDN'T ACTUALLY SHUFFLE THE DECK?
THAT WAS THE PLAN, YES.
SO HARU-CHAN LOSING OVER AND OVER...
IT WAS JUST A HARMLESS DRINKING GAME, SO OF COURSE NOBODY PAID ATTENTION.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...!
I DIDN'T NOTICE AT THE TIME.
Michan Coin normal here for fun
Haru-chan Oolong tea very weak (can't hold alcohol well)
OUR NOTES SAID SHE WAS BAD WITH ALCOHOL,
SO I TRAPPED HER INTO LOSING AND DRINKING TOO MUCH.


THEN, I RESCUED HER BY DRINKING FOR HER.
WITHOUT REALLY THINKING ABOUT HOW SHE GOT THERE, SHE'LL REMEMBER ME AS HER SAVIOR.
AND I SEALED IT WITH A KIND WORD AT THE END.
AND... ALL OF THAT...
WAS YOUR PLAN...?
WELL, YES.
BAM
IT'S JUST TOO EASY, YOU KNOW? ♪

WHAT A FEARSOME KID!

I... I CAN'T WIN! THERE'S NO WAY I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO GET A FARE-WELL AGAINST THESE PEOPLE!
PAT
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, KOBA-YASHI.


YOU CAN THANK ME LATER FOR ARRANGING YOUR NICE TIME WITH HARU-CHAN! ♪
...

END
WHAT WILL MARCO-SAN'S FIRST-TIMER SERVICE BE LIKE?!
OH NO!
AND NOW AN EVEN TOUGHER OPPONENT APPEARS!
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME NEXT.
TO BE CONTINUED IN 30TH NIGHT: THE DEGRADING HOST!